

OADBY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCILANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.for the year 1944.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my sixth annual report on the health of your district.

With the termination of hostilities in Europe the restrictions governing the publication of certain statistical information have now been removed, and this report is therefore of a more detailed nature than has been the case during the last four years.

In an area the size of Oadby a word of warning is necessary regarding the interpretation of the various birth and death rates. These are based upon very small numbers, and in many cases slight variations in the original numbers would make a large difference in the corresponding rate. Though the rates are useful in comparing the vital statistics of Oadby with those of other areas, they should always be considered in conjunction with the actual numbers on which they are based.

The rules governing the recording of war-time statistics have been described in full in my annual report for the year 1942. Briefly the statistics refer to civilians only; registrations of births and deaths are transferred to the area of usual residence. Notifications of infectious diseases are however assigned to the area of residence at the time of the onset of the disease. In Oadby it is particularly important to bear these rules in mind in view of the very large number of births to evacuated mothers which have occurred in the Wayside Maternity Home.

In Oadby the death rate (10.2) is substantially below, and the birthrate (21.2) substantially above the figures for the whole of England and Wales. The average age of death was 63, and it is particularly satisfying to note the very small number of deaths occurring in childhood and early adult life.

I wish to acknowledge my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council, and to the Officers and Staff for the ready co-operation and help which they have given me during the year.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant

ALEC. E. MARTIN. M.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

<u>Area</u> , in acres.....	2529
<u>Population</u> . 1944 Registrar-General's Estimate.....	5381
1943 " " "	5354
1939 " " "	5345
1931 Census, adjusted for subsequent changes in boundary.....	4766
<u>No. of inhabited houses</u> (end of 1944) according to rate books.....	1714
<u>Rateable value</u> . 1st. April 1944.....	£44,180
<u>Sum represented by a penny rate</u>	£178

VITAL STATISTICS.

		1939	1943	1944
<u>BIRTHS</u> . Live Births. Legitimate.....	Male	32	42	53
	Female	28	40	54
	Total	60	82	107
	Illegitimate.....			
	Male	3	1	2
	Female	1	3	5
	Total	4	4	7
	Total live births..			
	Male	35	43	55
	Female	29	43	59
	Total	64	86	114
<u>Birthrate</u> per 1,000 estimated population Oadby		12.0	16.1	21.2
England & Wales		15.0	16.5	17.6
<u>Illegitimate birthrate</u> per 1,000 live births. Oadby		62	47	61
<u>Stillbirths</u> . No. of stillbirths.....	Oadby	Nil	1	Nil
<u>Stillbirths</u> , rate per 1,000 estimated population England & Wales		0.59	0.51	0.50
<u>DEATHS</u> . Total number of deaths.....	Male	25	29	28
	Female	26	30	27
	Total	51	59	55
<u>Death rate</u> per 1,000 estimated population.....	Oadby	9.4	11.0	10.2
	England & Wales	12.1	12.1	11.6
<u>Death rate</u> (corrected.).....		9.6	Not available	
<u>Deaths from puerperal causes</u> .				
No. of deaths. Puerperal sepsis.....		1	Nil	Nil
Other puerperal causes.....		Nil	Nil	1
Puerperal mortality rate for England & Wales per 1,000 live and still births.....		2.82	2.29	1.93

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age.		1939	1943	1944
No. of deaths.	Legitimate.....Male.....	Nil	2	4
	Female.....	Nil	2	Nil
	Total.....	Nil	4	4
	Illegitimate.....	Nil	1	Nil
	Total infant deaths.....	Nil	5	4
Infant mortality per 1,000 live births.				
Oadby.....		Nil	58	34
England & Wales.....		50	49	46

Total Deaths, classified according to age:-		1939		1943		1944	
Age Group.		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year of age.....		-	1	2	2	4	-
Over 1 year and under 5 years.....		-	-	-	-	-	-
" 5 " " 10 "		-	1	-	-	-	-
" 10 " " 15 "		-	-	-	-	-	-
" 15 " " 25 "		3	2	-	-	-	-
" 25 " " 35 "		-	1	1	2	-	1
" 35 " " 45 "		2	2	2	-	3	1
" 45 " " 55 "		-	1	1	7	1	3
" 55 " " 65 "		3	1	3	5	8	3
" 65 " " 75 "		5	7	11	4	5	8
" 75 " " 85 "		10	8	8	8	5	9
Over 85 years.....		2	2	1	2	2	2

Causes of death.		1939			1943			1944.		
		M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Heart disease.....	7	6	13	3	7	10	4	9	13	
Cancer.....	4	6	10	8	4	12	5	5	10	
Intra-cranial vascular lesions...	1	2	3	3	2	5	5	3	8	
Bronchitis.....	1	2	3	2	-	2	1	3	4	
Congenital causes.....	-	-	-	1	1	2	2	-	2	
Nephritis.....	1	-	1	-	1	1	1	1	2	
Diabetes.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Other digestive diseases.....	2	-	2	-	2	2	-	-	-	
Tuberculosis (pulmonary).....	1	-	1	1	1	2	-	-	-	
Infantile diarrhoea.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	
Tuberculosis (other than pulmonary).....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Violence (other than suicide and traffic.).....	1	1	2	1	1	2	-	1	1	
Puerperal causes.....	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	
Syphilis.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Suicide.....	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	
Road traffic accidents.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	
Pneumonia (all forma).....	-	1	1	1	2	3	-	1	1	
Other circulatory diseases.....	-	4	4	3	1	4	-	1	1	
Peptic ulcer.....	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	
Appendicitis.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Influenza.....	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	
Other respiratory diseases.....	1	-	1	-	2	2	3	-	3	
Diphtheria.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Whooping cough.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Other infectious diseases.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Other causes.....	5	3	8	3	6	9	4	2	6	
TOTAL (All causes)		25	26	51	29	30	59	28	27	55

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

I am indebted to the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. G. Edgar Fryer, for the following details:-

Water Supply.

Leicester Corporation water mains are laid throughout the area and supply all except a few outlying properties with water of an excellent quality. Of the 1714 inhabited houses, all have water supplies laid into the house with the exception of the following:-

No. of premises not connected with public supply consisting of outlying farms supplied with water from wells or private supplies.....	8
No. of premises supplied from taps in yards outside houses, all taps being Leicester City supply.....	58
No of premises which have access to Leicester City supply by means of a tap fixed at the end of the road.....	11

Public Cleansing and Salvage.

A fortnightly collection of house refuse is carried out by the council's staff, who also undertake the emptying of pail closets and cesspools. An energetic salvage campaign has been carried out by the council, and paper, rags, bones, bottles, jars, ferrous and non-ferrous metals and kitchen refuse are collected.

Closet accomodation.

Total numbers in the district on December 31st, 1944:-

(a) Privies.....	Nil.
(b) Pail closets.....	34
(c) Water closets.....	1,729

Sanitary inspection of the Area.

Total number of complaints received during the year.....	12
" " " defects or nuisances discovered.....	11
" " " inspections.....	551
" " " preliminary notices served (Housing.....	10
" " " " " (Other.....	34
" " " " " complied with (Housing.....	11
" " " " " (Other.....	34

One Statutory Notice (Housing) was issued and complied with during the year.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No. of dwelling houses found infested.....	Nil.
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Inspection of dwelling houses.

- (a) Total no. of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing acts)..... 160
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose..... 160
2. No. of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidation) regulations 1925 and 1932, included under sub-head 1..... Nil
3. No. of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation..... Nil
4. (a) No. of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation..... 9
- (b) No. of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its officers..... 8
5. Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936.
 - (a) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs..... 1
 - (b) No. of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice..... 1

6.	<u>Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.</u>	
	No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.....	Nil.
7.	No. of cases of over-crowding at the end of year.....	1
	No. of families dwelling therein.....	1
	No. of persons dwelling therein.....	9

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

<u>Milk.</u> Retailers, (other than cowkeepers.)	No. on register.....	17
	No. of inspections of premises....	6
Producers (including those who retail milk)	No. on register.....	7
	No. of inspections.....	18
	No. of contraventions found.....	2
	No. of contraventions remedied....	2

Meat and Other Foods.

There are no regional slaughter houses in the district.
The only animals slaughtered for food during the year were 45 pigs.
All the carcasses were inspected and none were condemned.

LABORATORY REPORT.

The following examinations were carried out in the County Laboratory:-

Sputa for tuberculosis.....	27
Milk examinations (bacteriological).....	12
Swabs for diphtheria.....	11
Urine (general and bacteriological).....	4
Urine for tuberculosis.....	3
Sewage and water analyses.....	2
Miscellaneous.....	17
Total.....	76

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

On the 1st. January, 1944 the Registrar General introduced a revised system of recording statistics of infectious diseases. Previously the records were based upon the primary notifications made to the Medical Officer of Health by medical practitioners and which were summarised in the weekly reports of the Medical Officer of Health to the Registrar General. Since the 1st. January, 1944, additional reports have been submitted to the Registrar General at the end of each quarter, in which an opportunity is given for the correction and alteration of diagnoses, the deletion of cases where the diagnosis was not confirmed, and the inclusion of un-notified cases. With diseases such as diphtheria, and cerebro-spinal fever where admission to an isolation hospital is an almost invariable rule, the margin of error under the revised system will be a small one. Errors, sometimes of considerable proportion may still occur in the case of such diseases as whooping cough, measles and scarlet fever, which may be treated at home, and where a medical practitioner is either not called in, or where he omits to notify a case.

General review.

The year was remarkable on account of the very low incidence of infectious diseases.

Scarlet fever was the most prevalent of the notifiable diseases. Ten cases were notified, and five were admitted to hospital. Of the ten cases, three were aged 5-10, three aged 10-15, one aged 15-20 and three were of unknown age. The disease was of a mild type and there were no deaths.

Two cases of puerperal pyrexia occurred (ages 24 and 26 respectively). Both patients were evacuees, and were transferred to the isolation hospital.

Two cases of suspected diphtheria were admitted to hospital, but the diagnosis was not confirmed in either case.

One case of acute pneumonia was notified and there was one death from pneumonia.

No other infectious diseases were notified; and apart from the case of pneumonia there were no deaths from infectious diseases.

Diphtheria immunisation.

All parents are actively encouraged to have their children immunised against diphtheria; the ideal age being on the child's first birthday.

A high degree of success has attended the Council's scheme, and on the 31st. December 1944, it was estimated that 58% of the children under 5 years of age and 95% of the children aged 5-15 has been immunised. Cases where the parents definitely refuse are rare.

Only 4 cases of diphtheria have occurred through the period of war, and none of these were immunised children.

Tuberculosis.

Five cases of tuberculosis were notified (males aged 17, 23 and 44, females aged 19 and 33.)

There were no cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis and there were no deaths from any form of tuberculosis.

Evacuation.

The Government Evacuation Scheme has continued in operation throughout the year, and in addition to evacuees accommodated in private billets, organised parties of expectant mothers have been catered for at the Oadby Frith ante-natal hospital, and subsequently at the Wayside Emergency Maternity Home.

At the Oadby Frith ante-natal hostel, 278 expectant mothers were accommodated during the year, making a total of 856 admissions since the hostel opened in April 1942. Under its Matron, Mrs. Ventriss, the hostel has maintained a happy atmosphere and has functioned smoothly throughout the year.

At the County Council Emergency Maternity Home at the Wayside, Oadby, 427 expectant mothers were admitted and 412 babies were born during the year.

A total of 473 mothers with 97 children, 24 unaccompanied children 13 infirm persons and 2 teachers were placed in private billets during the year.